

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 19, 2011

The Honorable Cass R. Sunstein
Administrator
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Re: Federal Aviation Administration Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
Flightcrew Member Duty and Rest Requirements RIN 2120-AJ58

Dear Administrator Sunstein:

Thank you for your efforts to strengthen the world's safest aviation system. We are writing to inquire about the status of the Department of Transportation's proposed changes to the rules governing flight/duty time and crew rest. The *Airline Safety and Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2010* (P.L. 111-216) required the pilot flight/duty time rulemaking to be finalized by August 1, 2011. The Act also required that multiple safety factors be taken into account and steps taken to ensure that we do not disproportionately burden industry members while developing these important flight/duty rules to combat flight crewmember fatigue.

Because aviation is a primary means of transportation within Alaska, we believe this rule is critically important to the safety and well-being of our constituents. Our communities also depend on air transportation for goods and services, and for jobs. As the Administration considers Flight crew Member Duty and Rest Requirements, it is important to ensure that Alaskans can afford the increased costs of transportation and ensure that these costs will truly deliver safety benefits to our constituents.

With the statutory deadline passed, and rumors that Flight crew Member Duty and Rest Requirements changes have been proposed, our constituents are eager to know what additional steps will be taken. Please present us an updated timeline, and brief our staffs as soon as possible, on the Administration's proposed requirements and expected improvements to aviation safety.

Having well-rested flight crews is of the utmost importance. Please help us assure Alaskans and all Americans that they can continue to count on the safety of this important transportation mode in the most practical and cost-effective way.

Thank you for your attention to this request. Should you have any questions, please contact Warren Wright (202-224-6665) in Senator Murkowski's office, James Feldman in Senator Begich's office (202-224-3004), or Scott Leathard in Congressman Young's office (202-225-5765).



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



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